

## **ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES**

**Approved**

**May 14, 2024**

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order in the main meeting room at the Community Center on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 7:02pm.

**Commission Members:** Scott Walker, Phil Lasker, Jen Rothenberg, Leslie Mayer and Shirley Canniff. Sarah Carrier and Josh Fenollosa were not in attendance. Recreation Director Joe Connelly and ConCom liaison Susan Chapnick were also present.

### ***Anticipated Speakers:***

***Members of the Public:*** Liz Reisberg

***Preliminary Matter:*** Scott Walker, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance and welcomed anticipated speakers and members of the public to the Recreation Commission meeting.

### **Mini-Pitch Working Group**

Mr. Connelly shared the report summary and the working group member list. The working group reviewed the Activitas report and prioritized the recommendations. Based on existing infrastructure and lighting, parking and bikeway access, Summer Street was determined to be the best location for the trial.

Ms. Mayer – Recommended more neighborhood outreach. There will be a lot of changes to a small parcel of land that will result in increased use and traffic to the area. Ms. Mayer also noted that fenced areas draw the attention of dog-owners looking for locations to allow their dogs to run off-leash.

Ms. Rothenberg - Suggested broadening the outreach to the public, not only abutters. Suggested an email blast. Mr. Connelly recommended waiting until project funding was confirmed. Ms. Rothenberg expressed concerns about loss of basketball play if a specific user group funded the project. Mr. Connelly stated that use would be first-come, first-serve.

Ms. Canniff – Designate the project as an “improvement” plan. Mr. Lasker added that it is a “renovation” project due to existing infrastructure and lighting as well as use/purpose remaining the same.

Mr. Walker – Allow public input but not on design. Include parking lot updates and focus on positive changes to the site.

Ms. Rothenberg made a motion to approve the working group report and recommendations, as amended, seconded by Mr. Lasker. Approved 5-0.

### **Special Event Request**

Friends of Magnolia Annual Concerts – The request was received to hold the concerts each Wednesday, June 12 – August 7. Rain dates are slated for Thursdays. Mr. Connelly stated that the annual event is always successful and has not generated complaints. He also confirmed that trash disposal has not been a reported issue.

Ms. Canniff made a motion to approve all the requested event dates, seconded by Ms. Mayer. Approved 5-0.

### **Comments and Items for Future Meetings**

- **Capital Plan Review** – May 28, 2024 meeting
- **Menotomy Park Design Review** – May 28, 2024 meeting
- **Trash** – Ms. Canniff shared that the topic was brought up at Town Meeting. Mr. Connelly stated that reports show that most trash related issues are at school locations. Ms. Canniff confirmed that due to Covid more schools started having snacks and lunch outdoors, generating more trash. The Commission discussed the roles of school custodians and DPW. Ms. Mayer suggested contacting the Land Management Group to address the issue.
- **Hill's Hill Public Meeting** – Zoom, next week

**Approval of Minutes** – Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the minutes from April 23, 2024, as amended, seconded by Mr. Lasker. Approved 5-0.

#### **Correspondence Received**

Mr. Connelly forwarded correspondence to the Commission from Dean Carman regarding outdoor field scheduling and permitting.

Mr. Connelly – Will reach out to AHS Athletic Director, John Bowler. Noted that change in school start times has pushed practice times out.

The Commission discussed the following issues/concerns – number of teams on the same field at the same time, multiple high school level teams needing practice time (freshman, JV, varsity), multiple seasons for the same sport (soccer) and possible permitting/fees by the school department.

#### **New Business**

- **Open Space Committee** - Ms. Canniff, no updates.

Ms. Canniff requested an update on summer program enrollment. Mr. Connelly stated that Club Rec and Kids Corner were not full, but enrollment is high.

#### **Public Comment**

Liz Reisberg – Suggested installing a plaque at Hill's Hill, educating the users about the history of the Hill family.

Susan Chapnick – Received communication from the FOMRP concerning debris and erosion resulting from the installation of a bench within 100 feet of the pond. She recommended reaching out to David Morgan to review sedimentation controls. Ms. Mayer asked how debris and sediment was found in the pond, as the bench is on the other side of the path. Mr. Connelly noted that four benches have been installed with no issues.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn at 7:53pm, seconded by Ms. Canniff. Approved 5-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Deanna Stacchi.